

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /057 W  
-----126670 290222Z /15

R 281609Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0955  
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DUBLIN 02734

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: UK ARMY OFFICER SHOT IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, EI, UK

1. A UK ARMY OFFICER WAS SHOT JUST AFTER BEING  
MARRIED AT A CHURCH IN TRIM, COUNTY MEATH, AUGUST  
26. NO GROUP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY BUT  
IRISH POLICE ARE CERTAIN THE PROVISIONAL IRA  
IS RESPONSIBLE. PRIME MINISTER LYNCH AND THE  
SOUTHERN PEACE PEOPLE HAVE PUBLICLY CONDEMNED  
THE ACT. THE OFFICER PREVIOUSLY SERVED TWO  
TOURS OF DUTY IN NORTHERN IRELAND BUT IS NOW  
STATIONED IN THE UK. HE IS OFF THE DANGER LIST  
AFTER AN EMERGENCY OPERATION; TWO WEDDING GUESTS  
WERE ALSO HIT, BUT NOT SERIOUSLY. MASSIVE POLICE  
SEARCH FOR THREE GUNMEN IS UNDERWAY.

2. VOLUMINOUS MEDIA COVERAGE CONFLICTS ON DETAILS,  
BUT GUNMEN APPARENTLY CARRIED BOTH PISTOLS AND  
SAWN-OFF SHOTGUNS. THEY WAITED UNTIL WEDDING  
PHOTOS BEING TAKEN, FIRED SEVERAL SHOTS TO DISPERSE  
CROWD, THEN SHOT OFFICER AND FIRED MORE SHOTS  
WHILE GETTING AWAY. A GROUP OF UK OFFICERS  
ATTENDED WEDDING, EVIDENTLY WITHOUT NOTIFYING  
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IRISH POLICE, AND WERE GIVEN PROTECTIVE COVERAGE  
UNTIL THEY COULD BE TRANSPORTED OUT OF TOWN. PRESS  
REPORTS THAT SECURITY ASPECTS OF UK MILITARY VISITORS  
TO REPUBLIC NOW BEING REVIEWED.

3. COMMENT: INCIDENT IS ONE OF RARE STRIKES AT UK  
OFFICIAL PERSONNEL VISITING REPUBLIC SINCE ASSASSINATION

OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN 1976. ONLY OTHER CASE WHICH COMES TO MIND IS THAT OF SCOTLAND YARD CLERK WHO WAS SHOT IN COUNTY MONAGHAN ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO WHILE VISITING HIS IRISH RELATIVES. PERPETRATOR WAS CAUGHT, CONVICTED AND IMPRISONED.

4. OFFICIATING PRIEST, COUSIN OF BRIDE, WARNED HER THAT MARRIAGE OUGHT TO TAKE PLACE IN UK OR IN DUBLIN. WHILE MEDIA DO NOT SAY SO, WE PRESUME THIS WAS BECAUSE TRIM IS WELL-KNOWN AS AREA WITH STRONG "REPUBLICAN" SYMPATHIES. END COMMENT. SHANNON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARRIAGES, TERRORISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UK ARMY OFFICER SHOT IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, EI, UK, IRA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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